And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand! Stan Lee presents...

THE NEW AVENGERS

A massive super-villain riot at the Raft, a high-tech maximum-security prison, brings together the heroes who would become the New Avengers--Captain America, Iron Man, Luke Cage, Spider-Man, Spider-Woman, and the Sentry.

After a tense showdown with Hydra in Japan, during which Spider-Woman betrayed both the Avengers and S.H.I.E.L.D. by letting their enemy go free, Captain America confronted Jessica Drew about her crooked alliances. She confessed to him that a few months before, she had lost her powers. Hydra offered to get them back for her if she would act as a double agent for them. When she told S.H.I.E.L.D. director Nick Fury about Hydra's offer, he surprisingly told her to take the deal. Jessica was to act as a double agent for S.H.I.E.L.D. instead, feeding Hydra the information that Fury wanted them fed. However, when Fury disappeared, Jessica was left with no one in S.H.I.E.L.D. to report to. She was put in an even worse position when she joined the Avengers, as now she is in the public eye.

Meanwhile, when the Sentry returned from his self-imposed incarceration in the Raft, his great Watchtower appeared in the heart of New York City, on top of Stark Tower, where the Avengers have made their home. Because of this, the Avengers must now announce themselves to the world...and to their enemies...

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Assistant Editors: Molly Lazer & Aubrey Sitterson | Associate Editor: Andy Schmidt | Editor: Tom Brevoort | Editor in Chief: Joe Quesada | Publisher: Dan Buckley

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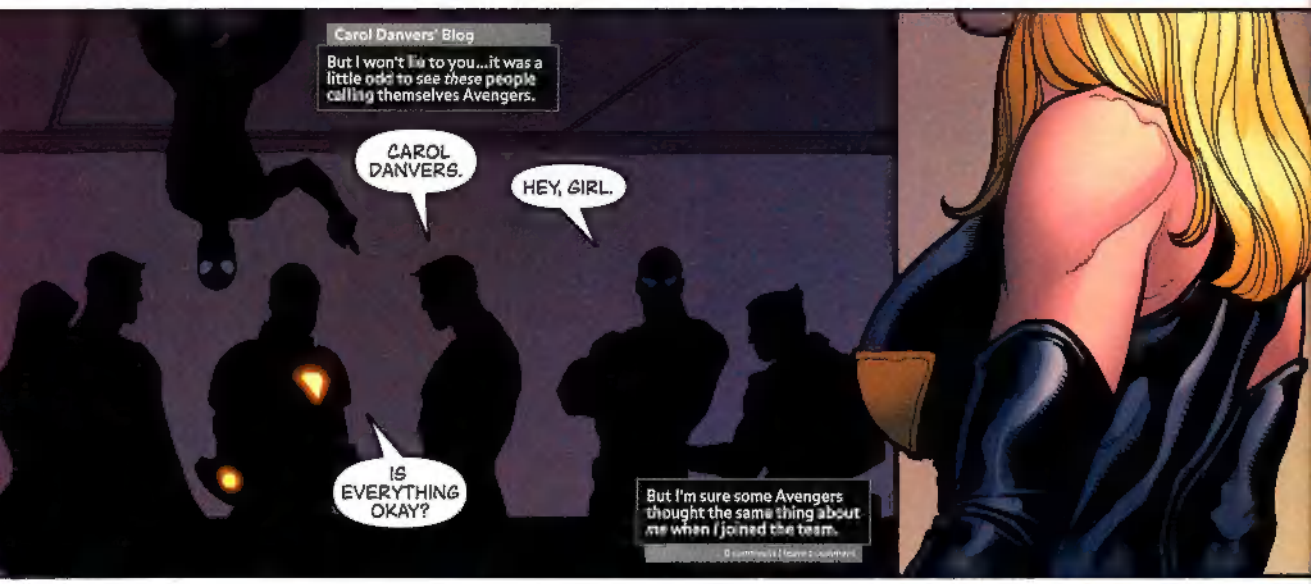
Carol Danvers' Blog
My name is Carol Danvers.
Sometimes I go by Ms. Marvel. Sometimes I go by Warbird.
(Even though I know a lot of you think that name sucks.)
I even called myself Binary for a while during my more cosmic adventures.
Anyway, I'm Carol Danvers, and welcome to my blog.
Not exactly the most auspicious day to start a blog, but I made a promise to myself that this would be the day. This is what happened today.
See, earlier today, a friend of a friend called in a favor and asked me to chaperone a super-villain prison transfer.
I flew all the way out to the Rocky Mountains...for this.

Carol Danvers' Blog
The gentleman's name is Ulysses Klaw.
I know all about him because I was able to do a little research *before* I came out.
Usually that's not the case.
Usually some big guy pounces on your head and then *afterwards*, if you're at all curious, you look him up online and try to figure out what it was all about.
Klaw was a scientist, but he turned himself into this living energy being that relies on *sound waves* to exist.
And with the miracle of all that, he has decided to be a terrorizing monster.
At the tail end of his prison transfer, when he figured a way out of his containment shell, I was *more* than happy to try and slap the snot out of him.
But he's one of the tough ones.
He was hitting me with this sound converter thing he invented.
The website I read said he can hit you with a maximum force equivalent to 3,000 pounds of TNT...
... which I now know I can take, even though this was a very dodgy way to find out.
Now among my powers (which I will be listing on my FAQ page), I have the ability to absorb various forms of energy.
Which kinds are still up in the air because there are literally millions of different kinds of energies in the universe...
...so it was a nice surprise to find that Klaw's energies were one of the kinds I *can* absorb.
Well, it was a nice surprise for *me*.
For him...not so much.

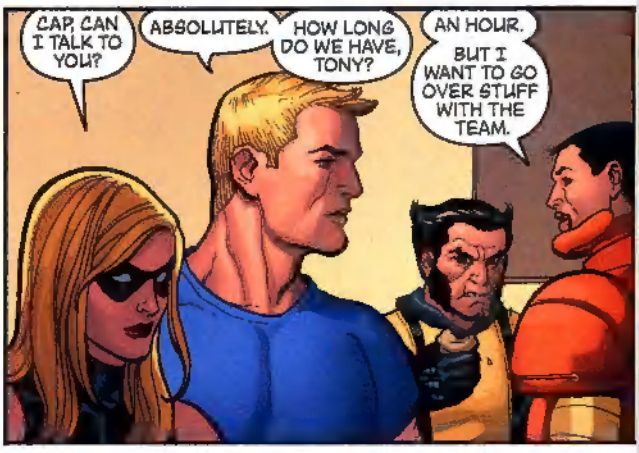
Carol Danvers' Blog
My ears are still ringing.
0 comments | leave a comment
WOW.
I'M OKAY.
C-7
C-13
THAT WAS SOMETHING.
YOU GUYS GOT HIM NOW?
WE GOT HIM. I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE WOULD'A DONE.
WELL, LET'S TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT THAT.
YEAH.
HEY, DON'T YOU HAVE TO FLY BACK TO NEW YORK?
FOR WHAT?
OH, UH...
WHAT?
I DIDN'T KNOW. NEVER MIND.
WHAT'S GOING ON IN NEW YORK?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL IN THE AVENGERS.
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE AVENGERS?
WELL, IT WAS ON THE RADIO.
THE AVENGERS ARE ANNOUNCING THEIR NEW LINEUP THIS AFTERNOON.
ALL THE NETWORKS ARE COVERING IT.
REALLY?
I'M SORRY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE... IN ON IT.
NO. NO, I QUIT THE AVENGERS.
THAT'S TOO BAD. DO YOU KNOW WHO'S ON THE TEAM NOW? DO YOU?
YOU GOTTA TELL ME, THE SUSPENSE IS KILLING ME.

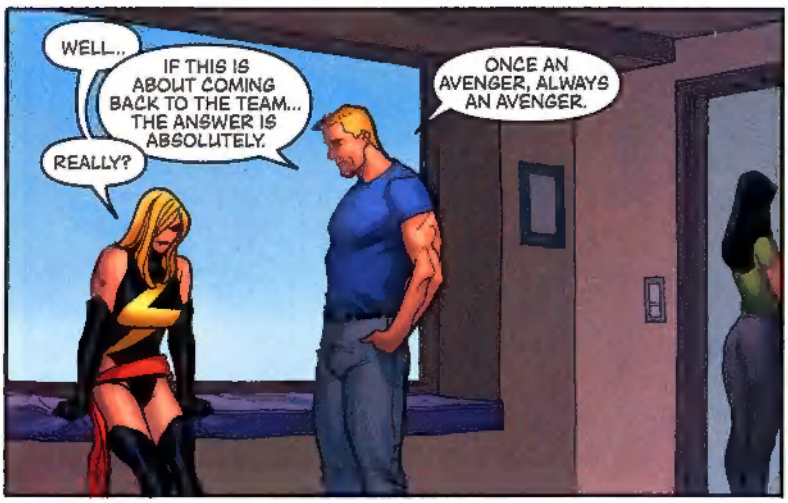
Carol Danvers Blog
No.
I'm not one of the New Avengers.
I was a member of the old Avengers. Or should I say, the "classic" Avengers?
I thought the New Avengers were going to play it low-key for a while.
At least that's what Luke Cage told me...
But anyone could see what the Avengers Tower had morphed into...
...now they had to go public.
NEWS
I didn't know what they did to the Tower, but it was stunning.
And I've seen some pretty amazing things.
To see this right in the middle of New York City...
...it took my breath away.
Avengers Tower. It's everything Avengers Mansion was, but more.
More than a landmark. A symbol. Fitting.
MS. DANVERS, SO GOOD TO SEE YOU.
JARVIS.
34TH FLOOR.
I was there for the best days the team ever had. And I was there for the worst.
So much of my adult life and my identity are intertwined with the Avengers that it just felt bizarre that the Avengers were having a big day like this and I wasn't there.
So I just kind of flew across the entire country and found myself there.
I wanted to visit the place anyhow, as I had things on my mind...

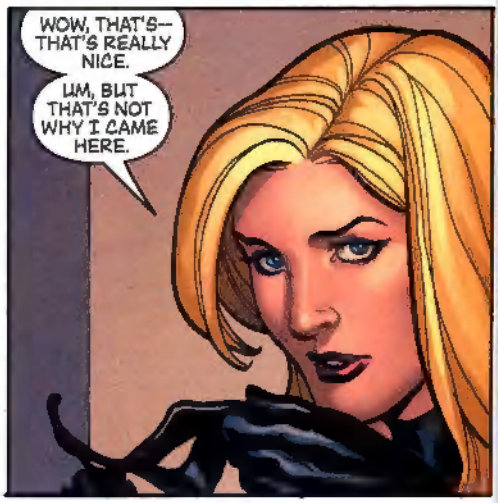

Carol Danvers' Blog
But I won't lie to you...it was a little odd to see these people calling themselves Avengers.
CAROL DANVERS.
HEY, GIRL.
IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
But I'm sure some Avengers thought the same thing about me when I joined the team.

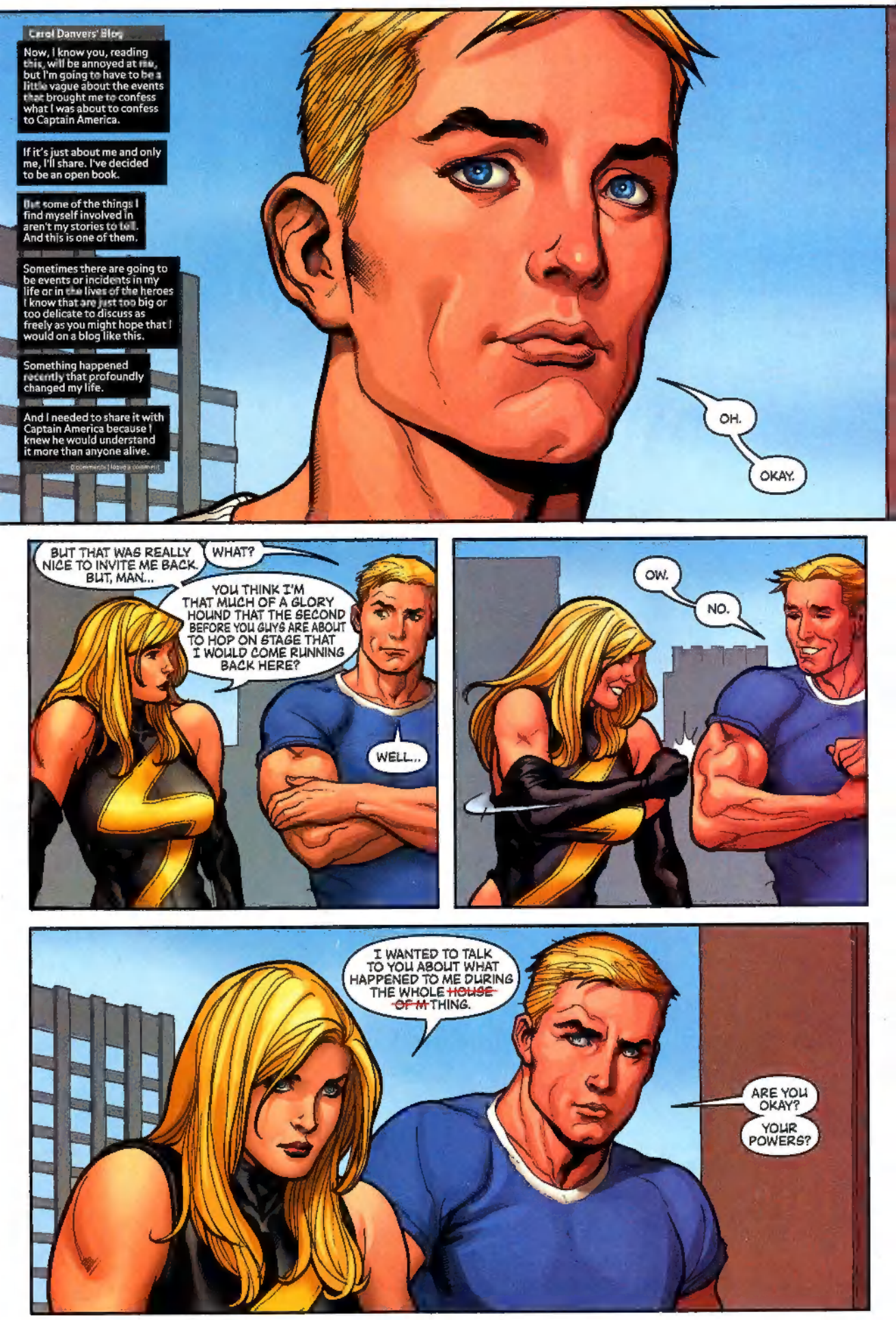
I WAS JUST NOT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
YOU LOOK FANTASTIC.
WERE YOU GUYS IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING?
ALWAYS.
I COULD COME BACK LATER...
NO. NO. I GOTTA GO GET READY FOR OUR BIG DEBUT.

MA'AM.
ARE THESE THE BLUEBERRY? HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS COMING AND TO MAKE MY FAVORITE MUFFIN? YOU'RE A PSYCHIC GENIUS.
DO WE *HAVE* TO WEAR OUR COSTUMES FOR THIS THING TODAY?
IT'S FOR THE BEST.
MINE SMELLS LIKE DEAD NINJA.
YOU'RE TOO KIND.
MINE SMELLS LIKE SYMBIOTE.
OH, *THAT'S* WHAT THAT IS.

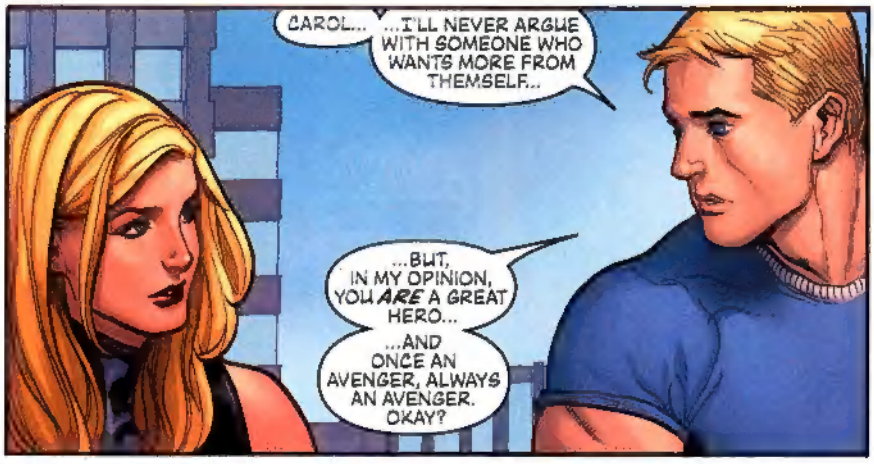

CAP, CAN I TALK TO YOU?
ABSOLUTELY.
HOW LONG DO WE HAVE, TONY?
AN HOUR.
BUT I WANT TO GO OVER STUFF WITH THE TEAM.

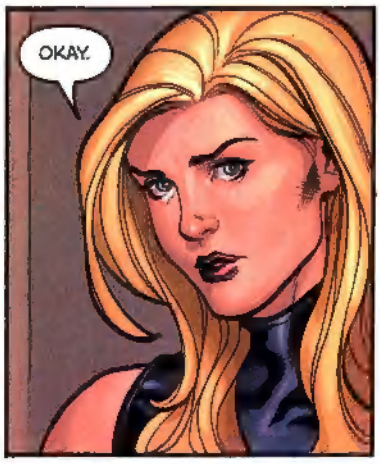

WELL...
IF THIS IS ABOUT COMING BACK TO THE TEAM... THE ANSWER IS ABSOLUTELY.
REALLY?
ONCE AN AVENGER, ALWAYS AN AVENGER.

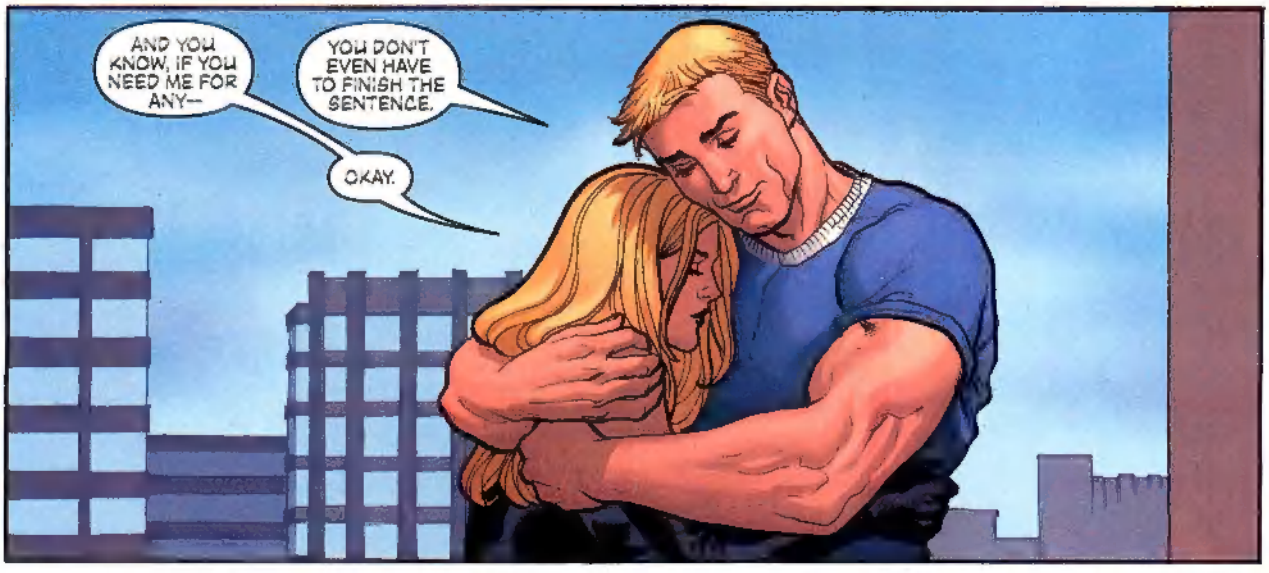

WOW, THAT'S-- THAT'S REALLY NICE.
UM, BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I CAME HERE.


Carol Danvers' Blog
Now, I know you, reading this, will be annoyed at me, but I'm going to have to be a little vague about the events that brought me to confess what I was about to confess to Captain America.
If it's just about me and only me, I'll share. I've decided to be an open book.
But some of the things I find myself involved in aren't my stories to tell. And this is one of them.
Sometimes there are going to be events or incidents in my life or in the lives of the heroes I know that are just too big or too delicate to discuss as freely as you might hope that I would on a blog like this.
Something happened recently that profoundly changed my life.
And I needed to share it with Captain America because I knew he would understand it more than anyone alive.
0 comments | leave a comment
OH.
OKAY.
BUT THAT WAS REALLY NICE TO INVITE ME BACK. BUT, MAN...
WHAT?
YOU THINK I'M THAT MUCH OF A GLORY HOUND THAT THE SECOND BEFORE YOU GUYS ARE ABOUT TO HOP ON STAGE THAT I WOULD COME RUNNING BACK HERE?
WELL...
OW.
NO.
I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO ME DURING THE WHOLE ~~HOUSE OF M~~ THING.
ARE YOU OKAY?
YOUR POWERS?

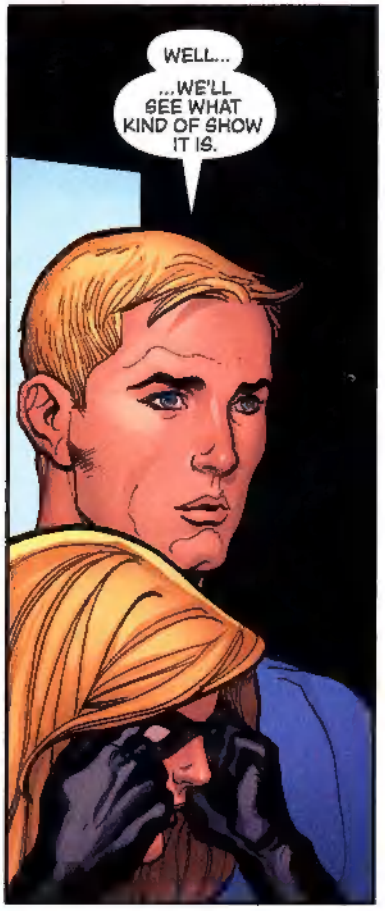
I'M FINE.
I'M MORE THAN FINE.
REALLY.
SEE, BECAUSE OF ALL THAT ~~HOUSE OF M~~ STUFF I FINALLY GOT TO LIVE THE LIFE OF A REAL SUPER HERO.
I'VE NEVER FELT BETTER.
YOU ARE A REAL SUPER HERO.
NO. NO. LISTEN, I KNOW YOU WON'T ACKNOWLEDGE THIS BECAUSE IT'S JUST NOT HOW YOUR BRAIN WORKS.
BUT, IN OUR CIRCLES, THERE ARE LEVELS OF HEROES.
THERE ARE GREAT HEROES, LIKE YOU, AND THERE IS...EVERYBODY ELSE.
AND FOR A WHILE IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT I'VE BEEN WALLOWING IN "EVERYBODY ELSE-NESS."
BUT IN THE HOUSE OF M, I GOT TO LIVE THE LIFE OF A REAL HERO.
A HERO WHO INSPIRES PEOPLE.
I GOT TO FEEL EXACTLY WHAT THAT FEELS LIKE, AND I LOVED IT.
AND NOW I--I REALIZE THAT I LOVE BEING THAT PERSON, AND THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO REASON IN THE WORLD WHY I SHOULDN'T TRY TO BE THAT PERSON ALL THE TIME.
AND FRANKLY I'M EMBARRASSED TO REALIZE THAT I'M NOT ANYWHERE NEAR THAT PERSON I SHOULD AND COULD BE.
I'VE WASTED SO MUCH TIME BEING, BASICALLY, HALF OF MYSELF.
DOES THIS MAKE SENSE?
I DON'T AGREE, BUT YES.
IT'S FILLED ME WITH--WITH PURPOSE.
I FEEL REINVENTED.
AND WITH THE ~~HOUSE OF M~~ FALLOUT BEING JUST SO HORRIBLE FOR EVERYONE, IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD ANNOUNCE TO THE ROOM: WOW, I KNOW MUTANT/HUMAN RELATIONS JUST GOT THROWN BACK TO THE STONE AGE, BUT I FEEL GREAT.
I WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT I'M GOING TO GO OUT THERE AND RE-EARN MY WINGS AS A SUPER HERO.
I'M GOING TO EARN MY NAME.
AND, MAYBE, WHEN I FEEL I HAVE... THEN--THEN I'LL COME BACK TO THE AVENGERS...
...IF THAT'S OKAY WITH YOU.


CAROL...
...I'LL NEVER ARGUE WITH SOMEONE WHO WANTS MORE FROM THEMSELF...
...BUT, IN MY OPINION, YOU *ARE* A GREAT HERO...
...AND ONCE AN AVENGER, ALWAYS AN AVENGER. OKAY?


OKAY.

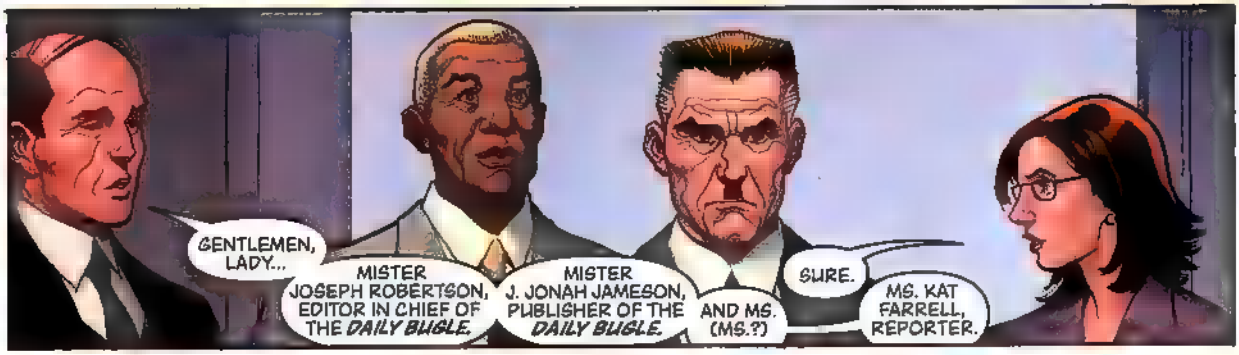

AND YOU KNOW, IF YOU NEED ME FOR ANY--
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO FINISH THE SENTENCE.
OKAY.

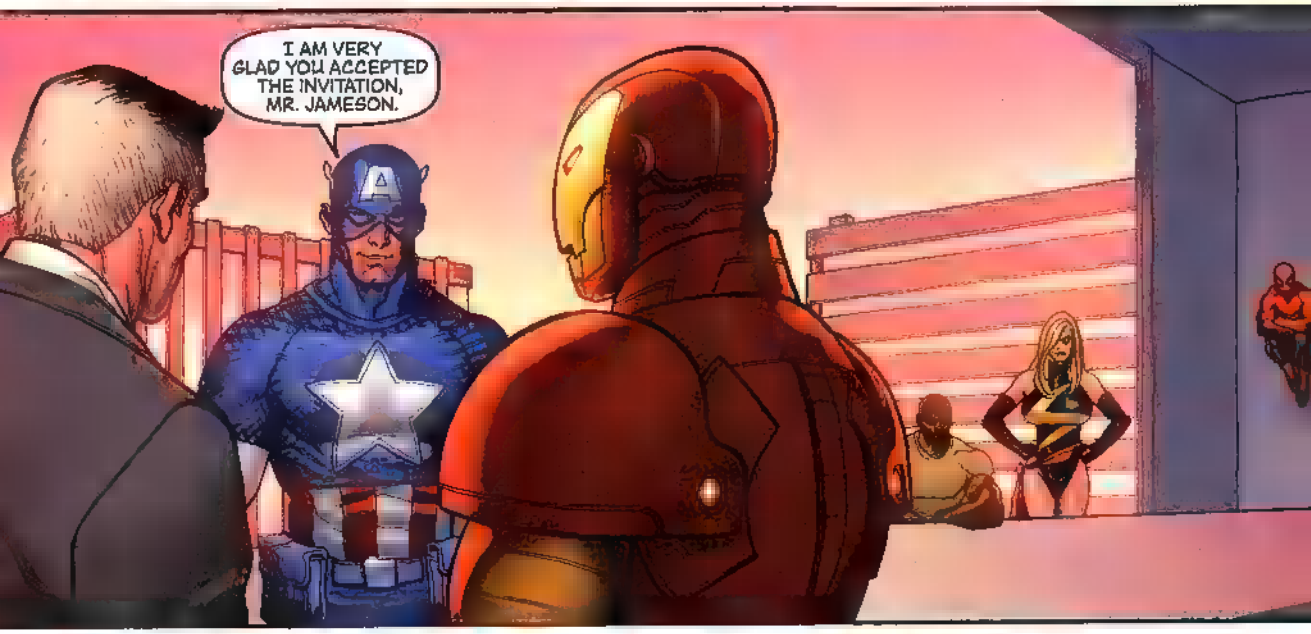
CAN I STAY AND HANG OUT FOR THE UNVEILING?
SURE.
COOL. THIS WAS ALWAYS MY *FAVORITE* DAY AS AN AVENGER.
UNVEILING THE NEW TEAM.
IT'S LIKE BEING BACK-STAGE AT A GREAT SHOW.


WELL...
...WE'LL SEE WHAT KIND OF SHOW IT IS.

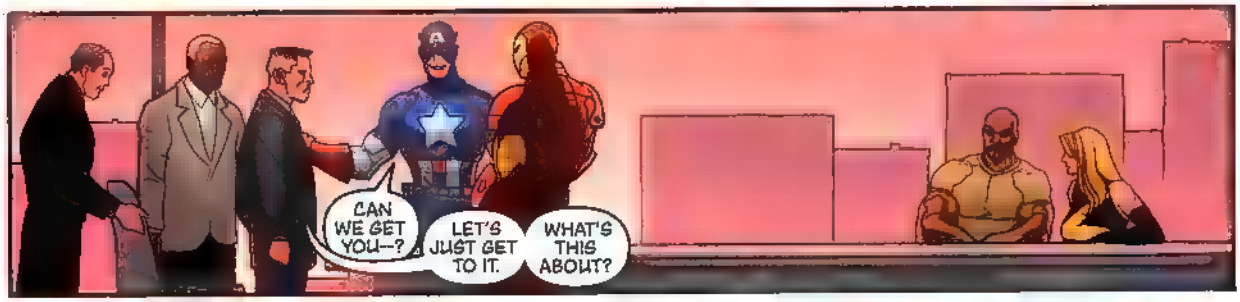
I'M NOT GOING OUT ON A STAGE AND PLAYING DANCIN' MONKEY!!!
LOGAN, YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU WANT, BUT WITH MUTANT-HUMAN RELATIONS NOW A DISASTER...
...A PUBLIC SHOW OF SOLIDARITY LIKE THIS WOULDN'T BE THE WORST THING YOU'VE EVER DONE.
ACTUALLY, IT DAMN WELL WOULD BE.
HERE'S THE NEWS: I'VE KILLED.
I'VE MURDERED PEOPLE. YOU GET ME? I'VE KILLED PEOPLE IN THEIR SLEEP.
PEOPLE THAT DESERVED IT? YEAH.
BUT I DON'T THINK A GUY WHO'S DONE WHAT I'VE HAD TO DO IN THIS WORLD TO STAY ALIVE SHOULD BE GETTIN' ON A STAGE AND WAVIN'.
YOU AND I HAVE A DEAL, AND THIS AIN'T PART OF IT.
YOU'RE NOT WRONG, LOGAN.
YOUR CHOICE.
YOU GETTING READY, LUKE?
YEAH.

OKAY, AVENGERS... THIS IS THE TOUGHEST AND, IN A LOT OF WAYS, THE MOST FUN PART OF THE JOB.
YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME MOVIE STARS, ROCK STARS, AND REALITY-SHOW STARS ALL WRAPPED UP IN ONE.
YOU'RE NOT HEROES ANYMORE, YOU'RE ICONS.
AND THIS IS WHERE I BECOME A HUGE LIABILITY TO THE TEAM.
SERIOUSLY, I, UH, I *DON'T* GET GOOD PRESS. AT ALL.
WE'VE ALL GOTTEN OUR FAIR SHARE OF BAD PRESS.
UH... NOT LIKE *ME.*
COME ON, YOU'VE SEEN THE *DAILY BUGLE* HEADLINES.
SPIDER-MAN: MENACE.
SPIDER-MAN: MURDERER.
EVERY DAY SINCE I WAS A JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL.
GREEN DAY MADE A SONG OUT OF IT.
IT'S NOT A BAD SONG.
OKAY--WELL, PETE, THIS ISN'T WHERE YOU BECOME A LIABILITY TO *US*, THIS ■ WHERE WE BECOME A--A WHAT'S THE OPPOSITE OF LIABILITY?
GOOD THING?
A GOOD THING FOR YOU.
THIS IS WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO SEE HOW THE MACHINE WORKS *FOR* YOU.
HOW SO?
GO PUT YOUR MASK ON AND HIDE YOUR WIFE AND AUNT.
HE'LL ■ HERE IN 27 MINUTES.
HE *WHO?*


GENTLEMEN, LADY...
MISTER JOSEPH ROBERTSON, EDITOR IN CHIEF OF THE DAILY BUGLE.
MISTER J. JONAH JAMESON, PUBLISHER OF THE DAILY BUGLE.
AND MS. (MS.?)
SURE.
MS. KAT FARRELL, REPORTER.


I AM VERY GLAD YOU ACCEPTED THE INVITATION, MR. JAMESON.

OY.


CAN WE GET YOU--?
LET'S JUST GET TO IT.
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

WE'RE THE NEW AVENGERS.
WE'RE ANNOUNCING OUR LINEUP IN JUST ABOUT AN HOUR.
THIS IS THE TEAM... MORE OR LESS.

HIM?

YES.

AND WE KNOW YOU AND HE HAVE A HISTORY.

I KNOW YOU HAVE YOUR OPINIONS ABOUT HIM, BUT I WANTED TO TELL YOU, FROM *ME*, THAT THE MAN IN THAT UNIFORM IS A TRUE AMERICAN HERO.

THIS ■ A FACT. I'VE SEEN HIM IN ACTION WITH MY OWN EYES.

HE'S BEEN THROUGH MORE THAN ALL OF US PUT TOGETHER, AND STILL HE PERSEVERES.

EVEN WHEN THE PRESS TURNS THE CITY AGAINST HIM, STILL HE ACTS THE HERO.

I REPORT THE *NEWS*.

AND YOU EDITORIALIZE.

AND THAT'S YOUR RIGHT.

IT'S YOUR PAPER AND IT'S YOUR POINT OF VIEW.

AND YOU HAVE TO FILL THOSE PAGES.

DAILY BUGLE

SPIDER-MAN: RDERER

DAILY BUGLE

SPIDER-MAN MENACE

DAILY BUGLE

SPIDER-MAN CLONE IS A MENACE

DAILY BUGLE

WEBBED WOND TERRORIZES CITY

I WAS WONDERING, THOUGH--

--IF WE GAVE YOU STORIES BETTER SUITED FOR A PAPER WITH THE POWER OF THE DAILY BUGLE...

...DO YOU THINK THAT WOULD FILL THE PAGES BETTER THAN "SPIDER-MAN: MENACE" OVER AND OVER?

WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE.

EXCLUSIVE ACCESS.

IF I LAY OFF HIM....

SAY YES OR I QUIT.

OKAY, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS JUST WAVE AND SMILE. JUST BE YOURSELF.
AND IF YOU DON'T WANT TO ANSWER A QUESTION, JUST SMILE WARMLY AND SAY, "I DON'T WANT TO ANSWER THE QUESTION."
IF YOU FEEL YOURSELF FREAKING OUT A LITTLE, JUST GENTLY WALK OFF-STAGE. WE'LL COVER FOR YOU.
YOU ALL RIGHT, JESSICA?
I DON'T THINK I SHOULD GO OUT THERE.
WHY?
WELL, I ALMOST KILLED YOU THIS MORNING.
ALMOST. I'M FINE.
COME ON, COME ON.
YOU HAVE TO.
PEOPLE ARE WATCHING. HYDRA. S.H.I.E.L.D.
IF YOU DON'T GO OUT THERE, YOU JEOPARDIZE YOUR COVER.
I HATE THIS.
I'VE BEEN AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. A GOOD LONG TIME, JESSICA.
I'M SURE BETWEEN THE TWO OF US WE CAN FIND OUT WHO OUR ENEMIES ARE AND GET YOU OUT OF THIS MESS.
So here's t' tion I get every five ...What's Captain America really
He's really [illegible] what you'd [illegible] he [illegible]
He's amazing.

In this day and [redacted] where no one can [redacted]

...where [redacted] an [redacted] puts a target [redacted] head...

...here's a man who wears the flag and steps out on a stage...

[redacted] goes berserk.

AVENGERS FOREVER!

Democrat, Republican, Libertarian, Smurf...

...they go berserk.

Beatles berserk.

[redacted] hear the [redacted] from [redacted] outside.

And [redacted] one handles it with more humanity and [redacted] humor than Cap.

[redacted] n't sup[redacted] oldier serum, this [redacted] man.

HELLO.

WHILE I'M NOT ONE FOR SPEECHES...

AVENGERS RULE!!

...I DID WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU BRIEFLY ABOUT WHAT THE AVENGERS MEAN TO ME.

AS SOME OF YOU KNOW, THE AVENGERS ARE THE ONES THAT FOUND ME.

THEY WERE THE VERY FIRST FACES I SAW IN THIS BRAVE NEW WORLD...

...AND THEY HAVE BEEN MY FAMILY EVER SINCE.

A ***HUGE*** FAMILY. AND JUST LIKE ANY FAMILY, WE HAVE OUR UPS AND DOWNS.

WE HAVE OUR TRAGEDIES AND OUR TRIUMPHS.

WE HAVE NEW PEOPLE COME INTO OUR FAMILY AS OTHERS GO OUT INTO THE WORLD TO FIND THEIR WAY.

NOW, THE AVENGERS CALLED IT QUITS A FEW MONTHS AGO. BUT THAT WAS PREMATURE.

WE JUST NEEDED TO REGROUP AND REDISCOVER OURSELVES.

IT'S NOT EASY TO BE ATTACKED IN YOUR OWN HOME.

IT'S NOT EASY TO SEE TEAMMATES FALL.

BHUURP!

BUT A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, THIS CITY WAS PUT [redacted] DANGER ONCE AGAIN. AND HEROES GATHERED TO FIGHT IT.

IT WAS A GATHERING MUCH LIKE THE ONE THAT BROUGHT THE ORIGINAL AVENGERS TOGETHER.

AND THAT'S WHEN WE DECIDED THE BEST WAY TO ***HONOR*** OUR FALLEN BROTHERS, THE BEST WAY TO ***HONOR*** THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD WHO HAVE GIVEN US THEIR TRUST...

...THE BEST WAY TO HONOR THIS CITY AND OUR WORLD COMMUNITY IS TO REASSEMBLE THE AVENGERS.

AVENGERS

AVENGERS GO HOME

LUKE CAGE IS ONE BAD MOTHER

CAGE FOR PREZ

I LOVE YOU SPIDEY

AWESOME AVENGERS!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

HERE, IN OUR NEW HOME... AVENGERS TOWER...

...I AM PROUD TO PRESENT THE NEW AVENGERS!!!

HOO-HAH

AVENGERS 4:EVER

I KNOW WHAT SIDE I'M ON!

BELTSVILLE ♥ AVENGERS

I ♥ YOU CAPTAIN AMERICA!

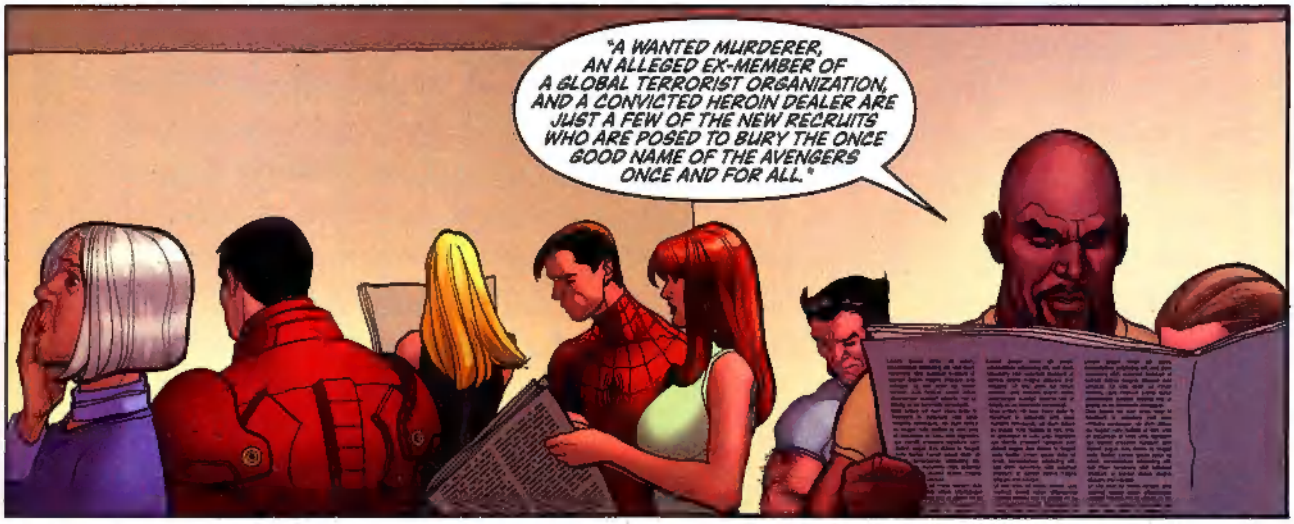
Carol Danvers' Blog

It was a great day. As good as it looked on TV.

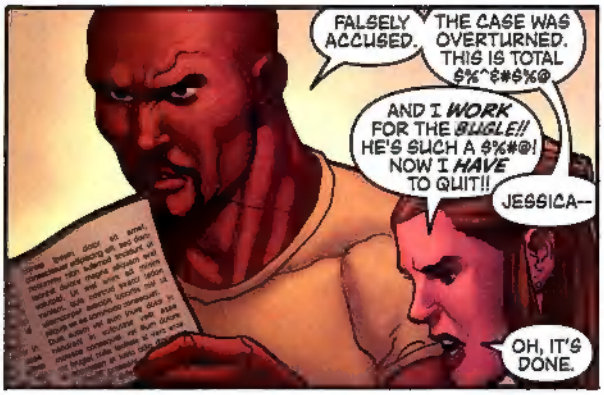
I'm glad I stayed...

0 comments | leave a comment

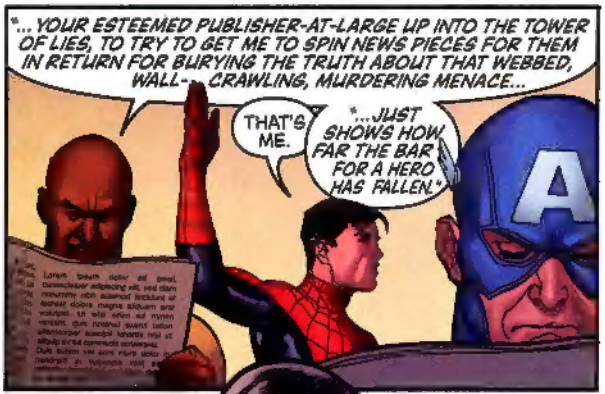
Carol Danvers' Blog
...I should have left before it got ugly.
0 comments | leave a comment
NO!


"A WANTED MURDERER, AN ALLEGED EX-MEMBER OF A GLOBAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, AND A CONVICTED HEROIN DEALER ARE JUST A FEW OF THE NEW RECRUITS WHO ARE POSED TO BURY THE ONCE GOOD NAME OF THE AVENGERS ONCE AND FOR ALL."

WHO'S A TERRORIST?
ME.
WHO'S A CONVICTED HEROIN--?

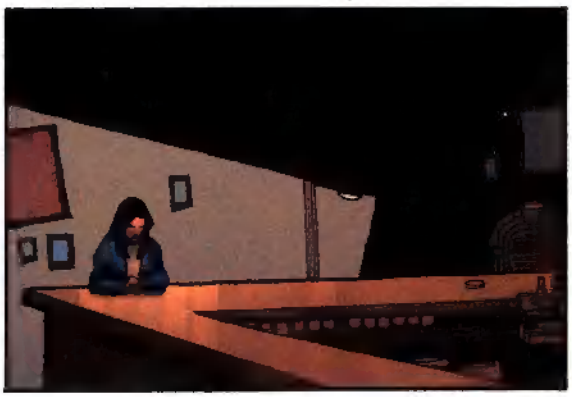

FALSELY ACCUSED.
THE CASE WAS OVERTURNED. THIS IS TOTAL $%^&#$%@
AND I WORK FOR THE BUGLE!! HE'S SUCH A $%#@! NOW I HAVE TO QUIT!!
JESSICA--
OH, IT'S DONE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE JAMESON WALKED RIGHT INTO MY HOME, LOOKED ME RIGHT IN THE EYE AND TOLD ME WE HAD A DEAL, AND THEN WENT AND DID THIS. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
SEE... I CAN.
"AND TO IMAGINE THAT THESE MASKED VIGILANTES HAD THE GALL TO INVITE ME..."


"... YOUR ESTEEMED PUBLISHER-AT-LARGE UP INTO THE TOWER OF LIES, TO TRY TO GET ME TO SPIN NEWS PIECES FOR THEM IN RETURN FOR BURYING THE TRUTH ABOUT THAT WEBBED, WALL-- CRAWLING, MURDERING MENACE...
THAT'S ME.
"...JUST SHOWS HOW FAR THE BAR FOR A HERO HAS FALLEN."

I'M GOING OUT.
I'LL COME WITH.
NAH, I'VE HAD A DAY OF IT. I NEED ALONE TIME.
I'LL DRINK YOU UNDER THE TABLE SOME OTHER TIME.
BELTSVILLE

McSwiggin's Pub



YOU'RE A ROCK STAR NOW.
QUIET.
THERE'S NO ONE HERE.
I KNOW, CONNELLY I JUST DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY OF YOUR CONDESCENDING--

DID THEY FIGURE OUT YOUR CONNECTION TO MADAME HYDRA?
OF COURSE THEY DID! OF COURSE THEY DID! CAPTAIN AMERICA GOT RIGHT IN MY FACE!
OF COURSE THEY DID! WHAT IS WRONG WITH HER?
WELL, SHE'S A TAD INSANE.

SHE STILL ALIVE?
WHOOPIE.
YEP.
SHE FLEW HER LITTLE ANTI-GRAV BOOTS RIGHT BACK TO OSAKA.
THE AVENGERS ARE GOING TO BE READY FOR HER.
YOU TOLD THEM EVERYTHING AND THEY FORGAVE YOU?
ALMOST EVERYTHING. CLEARLY.
AND NICK FURY?

HE'S BACK IN THE GAME.
HE SURFACED??!!
HE SAID HE'S GOING TO WORK WITH THE AVENGERS IN SECRET TO TAKE YOU GUYS DOWN.

WOW.
THAT IS GOOD NEWS.
AND YOU EARNED YOUR LIFE FOR YET ANOTHER DAY.
NEXT ISSUE : THE COLLECTIVE

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

Hi, guys, Bendis! here. We just had one of those light bulb things go off over our heads. We thought about all the letters and posts we get with questions about what's going on in the Avengers family of books and all the shenanigans going on this summer with the just-announced CIVIL WAR that Mark Millar and Steve McNiven are about to unleash on you.

We decided to handle it old-school style and create our own Bullpen Bulletins type of page. Every month Tom Brevoort or I, or both of us, will be right here, telling you everything there is, giving you all the info and plugging like it's an Olympic event. Sometimes there'll be interviews, sometimes there'll be essays. Sometimes there'll be art previews and exclusive sneaks. And sometimes there'll be a solicitation run-down.

There's a lot going on and a lot of info to cover. First off let me say--no hype, no b.s.--you read this comic, you are doing yourself an incredible disservice if you are passing up Ed Brubaker and Steve Epting's CAPTAIN AMERICA, Paul Jenkins and John Romita Jr.'s SENTRY, and SPIDER-WOMAN: ORIGIN. Brian Reed is creating an explosive new comic with MS. MARVEL, and any fan of Luke Cage is missing out if they aren't reading our last couple of issues of THE PULSE, especially because they tie directly into the upcoming NEW AVENGERS ANNUAL by me and my HOUSE OF M co-conspirator, Olivier Coipel.

However, the spotlight is definitely on CIVIL WAR and, more directly for readers of this comic, the upcoming NEW AVENGERS SPECIAL: THE ILLUMNATI. Here's the solicit...

Ripped from the pages of NEW AVENGERS, the Eisner award-winning team of Brian Bendis and Alex Maleev present this all-new special. An explosive hidden story of Marvel's secret past, the secret history of Marvel's most secret team--how they came together and how they are ripped apart. The events in this book act as a prologue to not one but two entirely different Marvel blockbuster summer events...CIVIL WAR and PLANET HULK. The Marvel Universe is about to split down the middle and the line is drawn here! You will be asked: whose side are you on? Well... whose side are you on?

What does this all mean? Well, I just did an interview with Dave Richards at comicbookresources.com that covered not only this but how NEW AVENGERS is going to tie into the recent events of HOUSE OF M. Here are some outtakes.

The Illuminati, whose membership includes Tony Stark, Reed Richards, Dr. Strange, Professor Charles Xavier, Prince Namor and Black Bolt, first appeared in the pages of NEW AVENGERS #7. NEW AVENGERS SPECIAL: THE ILLUMINATI was chosen to be the story that sets up Marvel's big stories for the summer. The special begins with the origin of the group.

"The group gets together soon after the Kree-Skrull War, which was about as close a call as the Earth has ever had," Bendis explained. "This was an instance where the Fantastic Four had a little bit of information, the Avengers had a little bit of information, and the Inhumans were attacked by Kree insurgents. All of this stuff was happening, and it affected all points of the Marvel Universe, but no one was communicating with each other. So this little secret group gets together because of this event and they go, 'Hey, maybe we should get together every once in a while and deal with these problems before they start and not just sit alone in our labs and rub our hands to our chins and go hmm...' That's how it starts."

The Illuminati have not had an easy history together. Since their formation, the group has quarreled. "An example I'll hint to is: Reed Richards and Iron Man get together with the others to meet," Bendis said. "You have one of the others saying, 'Well, you guys kind of have rotating memberships, and I don't trust all those people in the rotating memberships, so if we're going to talk here, the talk doesn't leave the room because I don't know who the hell Ant-Man III is.'"

Since their formation, the Illuminati have secretly tackled some of the biggest threats to the Marvel Universe. The special will detail some of the conflicts the team had their hands in. Bendis also divulged that the book will reveal whether the group only assembled to face imminent threats or if they held regular meetings.

In the parts of THE ILLUMINATI that take place in the present, the team will be missing a member--Professor X, who vanished after the end of HOUSE OF M. "He will be there for the parts that are flashbacks," Bendis explained. "I think it's interesting that there's a psychic in the group, but, no, he will not be there until he shows up again, that is if he ever shows up again."

So the Illuminati is a group with a missing member and an undercurrent of suspicion that has members lying to each other (as Iron Man did to Mr. Fantastic in NEW AVENGERS #10), and in this special the cabal finally crumbles. "Two things happen with the group that creates a situation where they can no longer speak to each other," Bendis explained. "One of these things launches PLANET HULK, and the other launches Millar and McNiven's CIVIL WAR. These things bring up what we believe are the biggest questions of the Marvel Universe--the kinds of questions to which that there are no right answers. But these are people with strong beliefs, and they have to defend those beliefs against anything. What you're going to get in the special is the first volley of ideology that sets up the tone for the summer."

After Bendis's books set the stage, Mark Millar's summer story will take a good, hard look at what it means to be a super hero. "It's about what certain labels mean and what a super hero's relationship to society is and what their rights are," Bendis said. "What do you get to do and say that other people don't just because you put on a costume?"

Marvel has recently unveiled one of the big questions of their summer stories: Whose side are you on? "That is exactly the question you'll be asking all summer, and it's a great question," Bendis said. "I can say this with glee that I'm sitting back and watching. It's juicy good stuff."

For the full interview go to www.comicbookresources.com

SPOTLIGHT BOOK OF THE MONTH

SECRET WAR Hardcover

Written by BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
Painted by GABRIELLE DELL'OTTO
Starring Wolverine, Spider-Man, Daredevil, Captain America, Black Widow, Luke Cage and more! When Nick Fury discovers a disturbing connection between many of Marvel's deadliest villains, he assembles a ragtag team of the MU's most misunderstood heroes for a secret mission to do what the U.S. government would never allow--eventually leading to a super-powered blowout between a who's who of NYC heroes and villains! Collects SECRET WAR #1-5 and SECRET WAR: FROM THE FILES OF NICK FURY.

This book is available for order now, and will arrive in stores in March. Let your local comics shop know to order you a copy!

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